

APPROVED

CABOT SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, December 2, 2013, 6 p.m.-8 p.m., Cabot School Library

PRESENT: Chris Tormey, Ry Hoffman, Paul Stecker, Sharon O'Connor; Administration: Nancy Thomas, Superintendent; Karen Stewart, Principal; Pat Johnson-Knoerl, Curriculum Director; Student Representative: Hugh Burke; Absent: Jackie Folsom, Heidi Cookson, Cassandra Morse

Call to Order – Chris Tormey – 6:05 p.m.

Public Input

- Parent, Frank Kampf acknowledged the many volunteers who worked to refurbish the gymnasium. Frank asked the board to approve the purchase of a plaque to recognize the volunteers, which will be hung in the gym. Frank also requested the purchase of paint to have on hand for future touch ups. Chris Tormey stated that the board will discuss the purchases and respond to Frank with the decision.
- Parents, Jennifer Boucher, Charles O'Connor, Lars Torres, Jean Macallum asked for information on the plan for a long term substitute to fill in for Ed Lewis' absence. Karen Stewart explained that interviews will take place this week to hire a long term substitute, who could also remain in the classroom to teach alongside Ed when he returns.

Consent Agenda

- a. Approve November 18, 2013 Minutes – Chris Tormey moved to accept, Sharon O'Connor seconded – unanimously approved.

Reports

- a. Student Report – Hugh Burke
 - Senior X will present The Drive event, December 13, 2013 in the CSPAC building.
- b. Superintendent Report – Nancy Thomas
 - The Affordable Care Act Modeling Presentation was held on November 19, Administration, Board Members and Union Representatives were in attendance.
 - The business office continues to work on the budget.
- c. Principal Report – Karen Stewart
 - Ed Lewis will continue to be out of school for an undetermined amount of time. Interviews will take place this week for a long term substitute. Karen took questions from the parents in attendance.
 - Karen is working to make changes to the structure of specials classes for grades 5/6.
 - December 13 will be Senior X Presentation of Learning at 6 p.m. December 16 Global Studies class will present a Points of Light Gallery Walk at 6 p.m. December 18 there will be a PE and Fitness Demonstration. December 19 parents are invited to a holiday lunch.

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Grades K-4 will go caroling at the senior housing center. Grades 5-12 will hold a music concert in January.

- The group discussed course offerings for next year; among the possibilities are AP Chemistry, AP Environmental Studies, Earth Science. Karen explained history/social studies offerings for juniors and seniors. Twinfield Union School and Cabot School are interested in AP Class combining and exploring offering French from Twinfield to Cabot via computer technology.

Board Discussion

a. Affordable Care Act – Nancy Thomas

- VSBIT/VEHI has worked with Gallagher Benefits Services to develop an analytical tool for schools and unions to understand the impact of complying with the ACA. A presentation of the analysis results for Cabot School was given November 19. Nancy summarized the findings for the group.

b. Expenditure Budget Draft #1 – Nancy Thomas

- Nancy reviewed the FY15 Expenditures highlighting the following items:
- 5/6 teacher added \$60,000
- Pre-K paraeducator added because Title I no longer funds paraeducators.
- Due to Act 56, special education professional services moved to WNESU.
- Computer hardware added, \$30,000
- Possible full-time school employed nurse
- Operations & Maintenance staff hours were under budgeted in FY14 and require health insurance increase, net \$42,000 for FY15.
- Bus rental and staff transportation time added for soccer.
- \$20,000 FY13 deficit reduction added.
- Possible Construction Projects:
 - Cafeteria & Library entrance roofs \$45,430
 - 2 Catch basins \$10,000
 - Paint high school, lead abatement \$32,139
 - Paint Cafeteria \$ 7,531
- Discussion: Added cost of computer hardware should be reduced. Nursing proposal too costly. Consider continuation of Health Center contract. Some of the construction projects could be postponed. Keep the rental bus for sports. Further discussion at next meeting.

c. Tax Commissioner's Letter – Nancy Thomas

- The group discussed the letter prefaced by the governor to hold spending levels down.
- In January there will be a symposium on education funding formula

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- d. Plan for Community Forum – Nancy Thomas
 - Public Forum to be held January 13, 2014. Agenda will be planned in January board meeting.
- e. Plan for Community Engagement in Long-Term Facility Planning – Nancy Thomas
 - To be discussed in a February 2014 board meeting.

Executive Session – For Personnel Issues – Chris moved to go into executive session at 8:52 p.m., Ry seconded. Return from Executive Session 9:30 p.m. – No Action Taken.

Adjournment - 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Sylvia Charron, Transcriber